

ESSEX THAMESIDE, GREATER WESTERN, AND THAMESLINK FRANCHISES  
 APPLICANTS' CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS: BULLETIN 1

Franchise(s)	Document reference/page no	Topic	Clarification Question	DFT reference	Clarification Question Response
ET & TL	Prequalification Process Document.		The Pre-Qualification Process Documents clause 6.5.3 states:-  "If an operation is used as evidence however, it must be so used for each of the questions."  Does this instruction also cover PQQ Part G question 2.3?  Or can we, in our response to Part G 2.3, provide examples of collaborative working and efficiency from operations that have not been referred to in the remainder of our response to Part G?	PQ2012-003	Yes, the instruction does cover each question including question 2.3
TL	OJEU notice II.1.5, Thameslink PQQ, p. 32	franchise scope	Can you confirm whether the Thameslink franchise will take over the South Central franchise in its entirety at some point during the franchise? Do you expect this to happen in July 2015 or 'at some point between July 2014 and July 2017'? The PQQ document contains contradictory information in this regard.	PQ2012-004	Yes - for the purposes of this PQQ, you should assume that the two franchises will be combined at some point. For the purposes of this PQQ you can assume that this takes place in July 2015.
TL	Thameslink PQQ, p. 32:	franchise scope	Can you confirm that the Thameslink franchise will retain all current Great Northern services operated by First Capital Connect, including those that 'remain domestic to the East Coast Main Line' (i.e. those that originate/terminate at Kings Cross and Moorgate)	PQ2012-005	This has not been finally decided. However, for the purposes of this PQQ you can assume that the future franchise will retain all current GN services.
TL	Thameslink PQQ, p. 32:	franchise scope	What are the DfT aims behind mapping the two franchises together and is this new Thameslink TOC intended to be the franchise map for the longer term franchise?	PQ2012-006	Broadly the aims are to reduce costs, simplify the interfaces for the introduction of the Thameslink rolling stock and the delivery of the Thameslink infrastructure and, in the longer term, allow the operator more flexibility as to which routes can operate services through the Thameslink core section. It also implements a recommendation of the McNulty report.  [revised second paragraph] Although the overall intention is that the bulk of the existing Southern and Thameslink franchises are combined in the long term, there may be further mapping changes in the end state franchise at the boundaries.
TL	Thameslink PQQ, p. 24, third bullet	franchise objectives	Can you provide some more detail on the areas you would like to see covered under the third objective (i.e This franchise operator will be required to support the creation of the future long-term Thameslink franchise that will operate when the Government's investment in the Thameslink programme has been delivered)?	PQ2012-007	This refers to the requirements needed to combine/ re-map the franchises from the start in 2013 through to create a single franchise with optimised long term service patterns that maximise the value of the infrastructure and benefits to passengers.
TL	Thameslink PQQ:	IEP	Can you confirm current plans for IEP? In particular, is it envisaged that a fleet of dedicated 5 car IEP sets will be introduced on the fast Kings Cross - Cambridge/Kings Lynn services from December 2018?	PQ2012-008	These plans cannot yet be confirmed. However, for the purposes of this PQQ, potential providers can assume that such a fleet will be available for these routes and/or propose their own preferred rolling stock solutions
TL	Thameslink PQQ, p30	Rolling Stock	If known at this stage could you please advise which rolling stock units will transfer from Southeastern to Thameslink in 2014?	PQ2012-009	This is not known at this stage, although the intention is that the only routes to transfer are those that will run through the core section and thus will be operated by the new Thameslink fleet.

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TL	Thameslink PQQ, p30	Rolling Stock	If all the services are to transfer from South Central to Thameslink, will the entire South Central Fleet be transferred or is the Bidder at liberty to choose? Is there in existence a cascade schedule that indicates when individual (or groups of) units are to be transferred between July 2014 and July 2015?	PQ2012-010	Subject to any Section 54 or other usage guarantees, the Bidder should be at liberty to choose its long term rolling stock fleet. There is no cascade schedule available.
TL	Thameslink PQQ	Rolling Stock	Does the Department have a final steady state vision of Fleet size by unit type for the Thameslink Franchise?	PQ2012-011	No.
GW	Process Doc pg 7 4th bullet		Can the DfT please explain how Greater Western Franchise is "amongst the most reliable and punctual services on national network"?	PQ2012-013	This reference was an error and the final part of the sentence can be ignored.
GW	Process Doc pg 16 6.2 E		Can the DfT clarify that the margin size, of not less than 2.5cm, applies just to left and right, or also to top and bottom? If it does apply to top and bottom margins, may we put generic headings/page nos within the 2.5cms?	PQ2012-014	It does apply to top and bottom, and generic headings and page numbers may be put in that 2.5cm.
GW	Process Doc pg 19 6.5.3 para 3		Can the DfT confirm that if a Potential Provider operates 1 or 2 franchises, the maximum number of pages that can be provided for Pt G is 25?	PQ2012-015	No. <b>The wording was incorrect.</b> The sentence should read "Potential Providers should limit their submission for Part G to a maximum of 25 printed A4 pages including any charts or diagrams used, unless they operate <b>more than one franchise</b> (in the UK and/or overseas) in which case the limit can be increased by two pages for each additional franchise."
GW	OJEU pg 2 Section II.1.5		Can the DfT confirm that the normal 7 period extension applicable in previous versions of National Rail Franchise Terms will not apply to this Franchise?	PQ2012-016	This has not been decided, and the 7 period extension may well be applicable.
GW	Questionnaire pg 2 No. 3		Is it correct that in order to receive supplementary information we need to have registered our intention to submit a PQQ by 17.00 6 January 2012?	PQ2012-018	Correct.
GW	Questionnaire pg 19 Para A		Can the DfT confirm the Performance Bond value for Greater Western is £6m?	PQ2012-019	The Questionnaire on the DfT website has been amended to read a)... <i>"The indicative performance bond value for the Great Western Franchise is up to £50 million."</i>
GW	Questionnaire pg 19 Para B		Can the DfT confirm a Season Ticket Bond with a value of £20m is required for Greater Western Franchise?	PQ2012-020	The Questionnaire on the DfT website has been amended to read b) <i>"A season ticket bond with an indicative value of up to £25 million."</i>
GW	Questionnaire pg 19 Part H 4th bullet		Can the DfT please explain how Greater Western Franchise is "amongst the most reliable and punctual service on national network"?	PQ2012-021	This reference was an error and the final part of the sentence can be ignored.
GW	Questionnaire pg 32 Annex 2		Can the DfT provide a reference for the ORR report referred to on pg 31?	PQ2012-022	Please see <a href="http://www.railwaysarchive.co.uk/documents/rvfm-jacobs-franchising-march2011.pdf">http://www.railwaysarchive.co.uk/documents/rvfm-jacobs-franchising-march2011.pdf</a>
GW	Questionnaire pg 31 Annex 1		Can the DfT confirm if we are required to use the postal label in Annex 2?	PQ2012-023	Yes, please.
TL	Process Doc pg 7 5th bullet		Can the DfT please explain how Thameslink Franchise is "amongst the most reliable and punctual services on national network"?	PQ2012-024	This reference was an error and the final part of the sentence can be ignored.
TL	Process Doc pg 16 6.2 E		Can the DfT clarify that the margin size, of not less than 2.5cm, applies just to left and right or also to top and bottom? If it does apply to top and bottom, may we put generic headings/page nos within the 2.5cms?	PQ2012-025	It does apply to top and bottom, and generic headings and page numbers may be put in that 2.5cm.

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TL	Process Doc pg 19 6.5.3 para 3		Can the DfT confirm that if a potential provider operates 1 or 2 franchises, the maximum number of pages that can be provided for Pt G is 25?	PQ2012-026	No. <b>The wording was incorrect.</b> The sentence should read "Potential Providers should limit their submission for Part G to a maximum of 25 printed A4 pages including any charts or diagrams used, unless they operate <b>more than one franchise</b> (in the UK and/or overseas) in which case the limit can be increased by two pages for each additional franchise."
TL	OJEU pg 2 Section II.1.5		Can the DfT confirm that the normal 7 year period extension applicable in previous versions of National Rail Franchise Terms will not apply to this Franchise?	PQ2012-027	This has not been decided, and the 7 period extension may well be applicable.
TL	OJEU pg 2 3rd bullet		Can the DfT please explain the discrepancy between 3rd bullet point in OJEU notice and the 2nd bullet point on pg 30 of the questionnaire concerning the date when South Central service will transfer to the Thameslink Franchisee?	PQ2012-028	The OJEU notice is written more with more flexibility so that the competition is not invalidated should the assumed date of July 2015 not be met for any reason. For the purposes of this PQQ, July 2015 should be assumed.
TL	OJEU pg 2 No. 3		Please confirm that in order to receive supplementary information, we need to have registered our intention to submit a PQQ by 17.00 6 January 2012?	PQ2012-029	Potential providers are requested to confirm their intention by the time and date shown but the Great Western franchise is the only one where supplementary information will be provided.
TL	OJEU pg 3 II.2.1		We note the contract will be based on the Franchise Agreement by which the franchise operator takes cost and revenue risk. Please give further details of circumstances under which costs and revenue risk will not be borne by franchise operator.	PQ2012-031	This has yet to be decided.
TL	Questionnaire pg 32 Annex 2		Can the DfT please clarify the differences between statements that "all South Central services will become responsibility of Thameslink Franchisee" and "none of existing South Central services running out of Victoria will transfer to Thameslink"?	PQ2012-032	The latter refers to the fact that the services will not operate through the core Thameslink route through Blackfriars and Farringdon
TL	Questionnaire pg 32 Great Northern		Can the DfT please confirm that the services remaining domestic to the East Coast mainline will be the responsibility of the Thameslink Franchise throughout?	PQ2012-033	This has not been finally decided. However, for the purposes of this PQQ you can assume that the future franchise will retain all current GN services.
TL	Questionnaire pg 32 South Eastern		Can the DfT please define those "Southeastern services which will become Thameslink services when the full Thameslink timetable is implemented in December 2018." as these are not mentioned in the OJEU notice?	PQ2012-034	These have not been finally decided but are likely to include those services expected to run through the core Thameslink route e.g. Sevenoaks services
TL	Questionnaire pg 33 Annex 2		Can the DfT confirm if we are required to use the postal label?	PQ2012-035	Yes, please.
GW	GW PDD page 12		Great Western Franchise PDD – page 12. Should the date for Successful Bidder announced be December 2012, not 2013?	PQ2012-036	Correct. This was an error.
GW	GW PQQ Page 27		Great Western Franchise PQQ – page 27 tick list. Section II. Should it be Part A, Part C and Part D (not A, B and C)	PQ2012-037	Correct. This was an error.
TL	TL PQQ Page 27		Thameslink Franchise – page 27 tick list. Section II. Should it be Part A, Part C and Part D (not A, B and C)	PQ2012-038	Correct. This was an error.
ET	ET PQQ page 26		Essex Thameside PQQ - page 26 tick list. Section II. Should it be Part A, Part C and Part D (not A, B and C)	PQ2012-039	Correct. This was an error.
TL		Southeastern services	What Southeastern services will be included in the new franchise?	PQ2012-040	These have not been finally decided but are likely to include those services expected to run through the core Thameslink route e.g. Sevenoaks services.

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TL			Transfer of South Central Services. Reading the documentation, there are several references to the transfer of South Central services which is open to interpretation. Specifically:	PQ2012-044	The OJEU notice is written more with more flexibility so that the competition is not invalidated should the assumed date of July 2015 not be met for any reason. For the purposes of this PQQ, July 2015 should be assumed.  The reference to the South Central Victoria services "transferring" to Thameslink does indeed refer to not switching their operation during the core section and that during this franchise term they would continue to operate in much the same format as today.
TL			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The OJEU notice in section II.1.5 states that the franchise will "include all the services operated by the current Southern franchise at some time between July 2014 and July 2017"</li> <li>The PQQ, Annex 1, first paragraph, states that the Thameslink franchise will include "the South Central franchise (in its entirety) in July 2015"</li> <li>The PQQ, Annex 1, section headed 'South Central' states that: "All services will become the responsibility of the Thameslink franchisee from July 2015. None of the existing South Central services that run in and out of Victoria will transfer to Thameslink and they are envisaged to continue to operate in much the same format as today throughout the franchise."</li> </ul>		
TL			Our interpretation of these documents is that all South Central services will be transferred to this franchisee during the franchise. However, those services currently operating from Victoria will continue and should not be changed by the franchisee to operate through the core. Can you confirm that this is your intention?		
GW		Stations	Please can you define "...full repairing leases on some or all of the stations that it operates...". Which stations would the franchisee be expected to take full repairing leases?	PQ2012-046	The qualification is that the stations expected to become part of the Crossrail concession may well be excluded from the arrangements for the rest of the network.
GW		Legal	When will the revised Franchise Agreement be available to look at?	PQ2012-047	The draft FA is usually made available at the time of ITT issue. However we expect to engage fully with pre-qualified parties so that they are as aware as possible about the intended changes.
GW	PQQ		Part H states one of the objectives to "continue to be amongst the most reliable and punctual services on the national network". Could the DfT confirm that this wording is correct, given current performance figures on this route?	PQ2012-049	This reference was an error and the final part of the sentence can be ignored.
GW	PQQ		Part H states in the first objective that the franchise operator should work with partners on the "Great Western upgrade". Could the DfT specify exactly which schemes/projects are included in the "Great Western upgrade".	PQ2012-050	The Great Western upgrade is the generic term for the suite of projects described in the documentation.
GW	PQQ		The PQQ states the font size of Arial 11pt for all responses. Historically the DfT has accepted a smaller font size (9pt) for text in tables. Please can the DfT confirm that this is still the case.	PQ2012-051	Yes - as long as these tables are genuinely needed to provide information in a tabular format.
GW	PQQ		Please provide information about the nature of the covenant required for liquidity ratios	PQ2012-054	This is being flagged as a possible requirement at this stage. Further information will be provided later in the process.

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ET	PQQ		The PQQ states the font size of Arial 11pt for all responses. Historically the DfT has accepted a smaller font size (9pt) for text in tables. Please can the DfT confirm that this is still the case.	PQ2012-055	Yes - as long as these tables are genuinely needed to provide information in a tabular format.
ET	PQQ		Please provide information about the nature of the covenant required for liquidity ratios.	PQ2012-058	This is being flagged as a possible requirement at this stage. Further information will be provided later in the process.
TL	PQQ		Part H states one of the objectives to "continue to be amongst the most reliable and punctual services on the national network". Could the DfT confirm that this wording is correct, given current performance figures on this route?	PQ2012-059	This reference was an error and the final part of the sentence can be ignored.
TL	PQQ		The PQQ states the font size of Arial 11pt for all responses. Historically the DfT has accepted a smaller font size (9pt) for text in tables. Please can the DfT confirm that this is still the case.	PQ2012-060	Yes - as long as these tables are genuinely needed to provide information in a tabular format.
TL	PQQ		Please provide information about the nature of the covenant required for liquidity ratios	PQ2012-063	This is being flagged as a possible requirement at this stage. Further information will be provided later in the process.
ET	PQQ		As Part G, Question 2.3 is not a standard EFQM question could the DfT please provide details of how this question will be evaluated.	PQ2012-064	We will apply the same principles of RADAR evaluation.
TL	PQQ		As Part G, Question 2.3 is not a standard EFQM question could the DfT please provide details of how this question will be evaluated.	PQ2012-065	We will apply the same principles of RADAR evaluation.
GW	PQQ		As Part G, Question 2.3 is not a standard EFQM question could the DfT please provide details of how this question will be evaluated.	PQ2012-066	We will apply the same principles of RADAR evaluation.
ET	Process Doc pg 19 6.5.3 para 3		Can the DfT confirm that if a Potential Provider operates 1 or 2 franchises, the maximum number of pages that can be provided for Pt G is 25?	PQ2012-067	No. <b>The wording was incorrect.</b> The sentence should read "Potential Providers should limit their submission for Part G to a maximum of 25 printed A4 pages including any charts or diagrams used, unless they operate <b>more than one franchise</b> (in the UK and/or overseas) in which case the limit can be increased by two pages for each additional franchise."
All three	PQQ Part D	Accounts	If expressing interest in more than one franchise is it necessary to provide a hard copy set of accounts with each submission?	PQ2012-068	If submitting a PQQ for more than one franchise it will be sufficient to provide just one hard copy set of accounts, and make cross-references as required.
					END